Vancouver metro
Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, JULY 17-19, 2015

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metroLIFE

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, JULY 17-19, 2015

High 23°C/Low 16°C Sunny!

Two revellers pose at the Pemberton Music Festival in 2014. The four-day event kicked off Thursday, with more than 100 artists scheduled to perform. For an interview with Dan Mangan, check out metroNEWS. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Culprit has quite a resumé

CRIME

Would-be robber wrote hold-up note on back of CV

Neal Hall
For Metro | Vancouver

You've heard of the bank robber who passed a hold-up note written on the back of his cheque.

Now a B.C. woman has earned her own spot in the Stupid Crimes file.

She wrote a note demanding "Give me all the money B4 I shoot everyone" on the back of her resumé, which included her name and address, making it easy for police to find her after she fled the scene.

The would-be robber, Tara Miller, 28, had entered a Port Alberni smoothie shop and passed the note to the cashier.

Miller was armed with a fake plastic gun, which the cashier scoffed at, pointing out that it was impossible to shoot people with a toy.

The owner of the smoothie shop, the cashier's mother, emerged from the kitchen and confronted the would-be robber. A brief physical altercation ensued and Miller fled the scene, taking the "gun" and note with her.

She discarded the note, which police later found, in a trash bin in a nearby park. It was handwritten on the reverse side of a typewritten resumé, which included Miller's name and address.

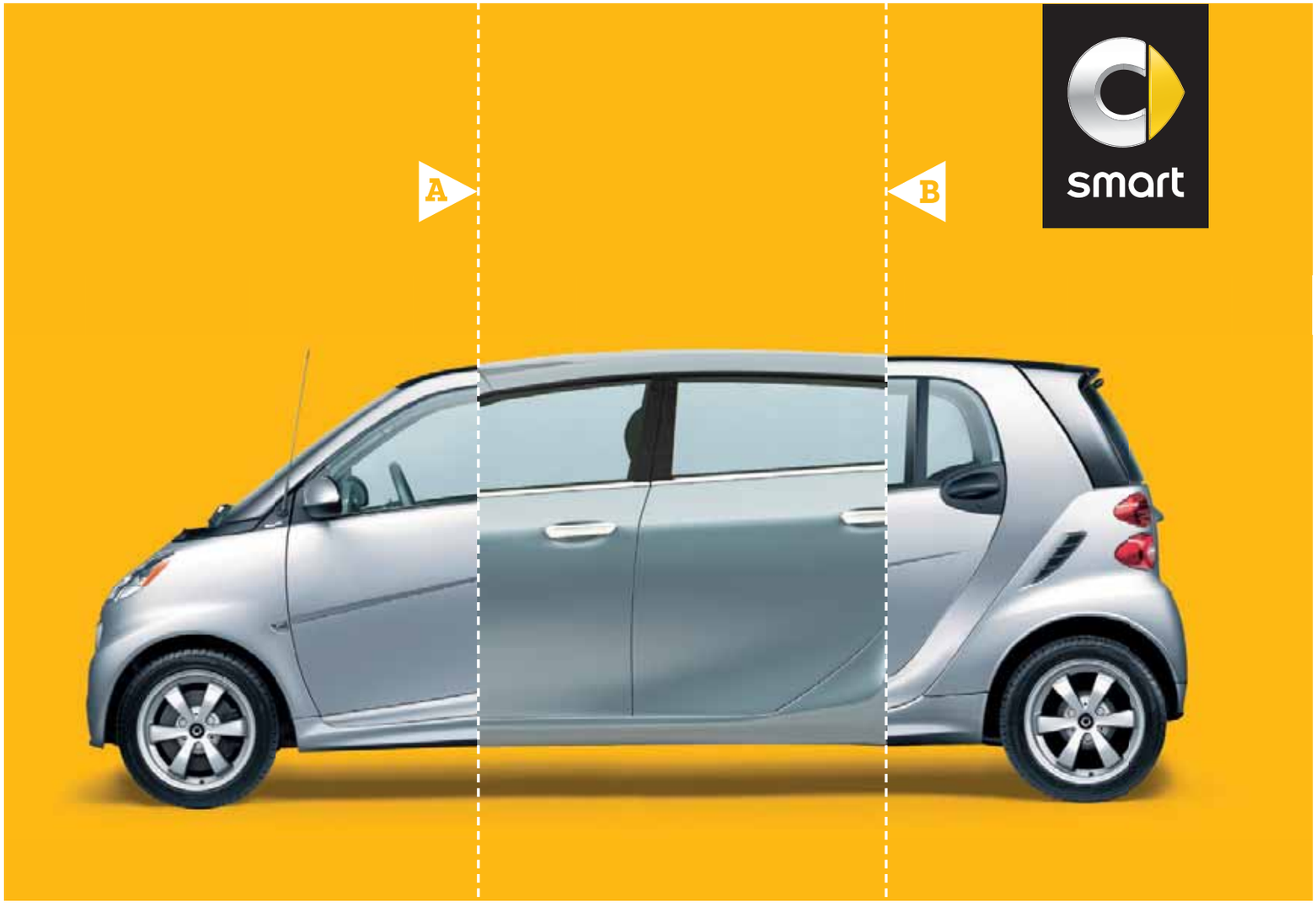
The officers proceeded to the address, where they arrested Miller.

On April 8, Miller was convicted of attempted robbery. But before she was sentenced, she was caught shoplifting some costume jewelry worth $5.97 from the Walmart in Port Alberni.

The Crown sought a sentence of two years for the attempted robbery.

But Provincial Court Judge Ted Gouge noted that Miller, who has two young children, was a heavy cocaine user at the time, and no lasting harm was done to the cashier or the owner of the shop, who did not feel threatened by the toy gun.

The judge said a two-year sentence "would be entirely disproportionate to the gravity of this offence. In my view, a sentence of 90 days would be appropriate, and I impose that sentence."



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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

Many Canadians take work on vacation. **Business**

City of Vancouver worker shot dead in car: Police

BURNABY

Shooting of Hanif Jessa believed to be targeted attack

A City of Vancouver employee whose murder sparked concerns for his co-workers was shot in a vehicle outside his home in Burnaby, police say.

Sgt. Stephanie Ashton of the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team said Hanif Jessa was shot Wednesday afternoon in what police believe was a targeted attack.

Jessa, 53, died in hospital a short time later.

"We do not have a specific suspect in mind at this time," Ashton said Thursday, adding police have "a number of investigative leads."

Jessa had worked at the City of Vancouver for 25 years and was not known to police.

RCMP previously said a suspect approached a Burnaby home around noon Wednesday, and a shouting match ensued before shots were fired.

Ashton said IHIT is working with all the police detachments in the Vancouver area.

The fatal shooting prompted Burnaby RCMP to issue a warning that other city workers in Vancouver may be at risk.

Vancouver police Chief Adam Palmer said Mounties cautioned his department about an hour after Jessa was shot, around noon Wednesday.

The Canadian flag at city hall flies at half mast on Thursday after the murder of a Vancouver city employee outside his home in Burnaby on Wednesday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Officers were immediately dispatched to city hall, a nearby engineering building and two work yards, Palmer said Thursday, when police presence continued as staff returned to work.

Security measures were scaled back later as officers determined the threat had been substantially reduced, and all the work sites returned to normal operation.

Mayor Gregor Robertson said the RCMP has advised the city that there is no longer any threat to employees.

Robertson said he is shocked and saddened by Jessa's murder.

"This is obviously a very disturbing event for city staff, particularly those who worked closely with this employee over the years," he told a news conference.

"This was a longtime employee who had enormous support, a much-loved employee with the city, which makes it a really tragic loss. A lot of people (are) impacted at the city who worked with him and are grieving his loss."

The City of Vancouver said in a statement that counselling and support is being offered to staff, and the flag at city hall has been lowered to half-mast to honour Jessa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WELFARE SYSTEM

Review promised in child abuse case

B.C.'s children's minister has announced a review into the case of a father who molested his toddler despite a court order banning unsupervised visits.

Stephanie Cadieux said Thursday that her ministry will examine all of the policy and practice concerns raised in a scathing ruling, as well as the human-resource implications.

Cadieux said the public deserves to know the child-welfare system is accountable but that she doesn't yet know the details of the review.

"It can't be rushed but it won't be delayed," she said. "When that plan is brought forward to me ... I will explain to the public what form that review will take."

A B.C. Supreme Court judge found that the ministry showed "reckless disregard" for its responsibility when it falsely accused a mother of being mentally ill and removed four children from her care in 2009.

Social workers failed to investigate the children's reports that they had been sexually abused by their father and allowed him to visit them unaccompanied in foster care, according to the decision.

Opposition New Democrats grilled Cadieux in the legislature.

"The ministry spent years in court action, millions of dollars of taxpayers' money, trying to cover up bad decisions that were made by the ministry with respect to this family," NDP Leader John Horgan said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Vancouver singer-songwriter Dan Mangan, shown here at the Squamish Valley Music Festival in August 2013, is performing on the final day of the Pemberton Music Festival on Sunday.
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Mangan dishes on fatherhood

PEMBERTON

Blacksmith to perform on last day of festival

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver singer-songwriter Dan Mangan's music is loved by legions of fans.

His son isn't one of them.

"He likes when I sing him to sleep, but during the day, if I ever pick up the guitar and start singing, he says, 'No! No daddy singing! No daddy singing!'" Mangan said with a laugh. "I tell him, 'You know, people pay for this, kid.'"

Lucky for Mangan, two-year-old son Jude won't be in the crowd when he and his band Blacksmith perform at the Pemberton Music Festival on Sunday, sharing the stage with hip-hop heavy hitters Kendrick Lamar and Missy Elliott on the final day of the four-day music event.

As Mangan explained, as much as he would like actress wife Kirsten Slenning and their toddler to join him on the road, a tour bus isn't the most comfortable place for a young family.

"I think if you're a major superstar and you're travelling in multiple buses, there's a way that you can do it and keep the family comfortable," he said. "But at this point, we're not that kind of act. All of the wives and kids stay at home."

This summer marks Dan Mangan + Blacksmith's first tour on the heels of a new critically acclaimed album released in January, Club Meds, since going on a two-year hiatus. After nearly a decade of near-constant touring and song writing, the two-time Juno Award winner was in dire need of a break— although he didn't exactly put his feet up.

"I spent a lot of time just pushing a stroller, which was really great," Mangan said.

He also took his first stab at composing a film score for 2014 British comedy-drama Hector and the Search for Happiness, starring Simon Pegg. Vessel, the first single from Club Meds, is also featured on the soundtrack.

"It was a really rewarding experience, and I think some interesting music came out of it," said Mangan. "What I learned is that when you make a film, you kind of become family with a lot of the people making the film. I was really proud of the film and proud of what we accomplished."

Family is clearly top of mind for Mangan, who described how fatherhood has "raised the stakes" in his song-writing process.

Surprisingly, through becoming a dad, the almost cutesy childlike appeal of Mangan's early music has evolved to become more lyrically pointed and "a little bit more jagged."

"I want him to grow up and feel like his dad's work is meaningful," he said. "You want to do something that's good, that's true and that's honest and that's relevant."

Does Mangan see music in his son's future?

"Kid's got rhythm, that's for sure," he said.

"He likes to smash things. Who knows, maybe he'll be a drummer?"

ONLINE
Check out metronews.ca for full Pemberton Music Festival coverage this weekend, including photo galleries, artist profiles and music reviews.

MORE INFORMATION

Heavy traffic expected during Pemberton festival

Drivers taking the Sea-to-Sky Highway this weekend are being warned to expect heavy traffic and possible delays due to the Pemberton Music Festival.

Although no lane closures are planned for Highway 99, B.C.'s Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure says it is expecting an increase in traffic volume between Horseshoe Bay and Pemberton until Monday.

The ministry is urging drivers to plan their travel in advance, to drive safely and obey signs and traffic-control workers during the four-day festival.

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IN BRIEF

Possible arsonist at large

A firebug may be on the loose in the suburban Victoria District of Highlands, on Vancouver Island.

West Shore RCMP say video surveillance shows someone running from the scene shortly after a suspicious fire was sparked in a shed behind an abandoned house.

Flames broke out early Wednesday morning and rapidly engulfed the shed and house, but no one was hurt.

A second fire was found smouldering under a wooden bulletin board not far from the first blaze, but was quickly put out.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Woman charged after lethal brawl

An unnamed 18-year-old Port Alberni woman is facing charges related to the death of another teenager from the Vancouver Island city.

She was arrested early Wednesday morning, along with two other young people, as Mounties responded to a fight underway on a city street.

Nineteen-year-old Carlene Jack was found critically injured as police arrived and was rushed to hospital, where she died.

Police have not said what prompted the altercation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FIRE CONTROL

Crews, rain stymie wildfires

British Columbia's Wildfire Service is urging people against becoming too complacent as the number of blazes burning up forests drops by dozens.

Fire information officer Kevin Skrepnek said there are currently about 166 wildfires across B.C., down from the 220 reported by the service early this week.

He said lightning has caused fewer fires to continue burning because of accompanying rain and that crews have hit the flames fast.

Skrepnek says that despite lower temperatures in recent days, hot dry weather is expected to return by the weekend.

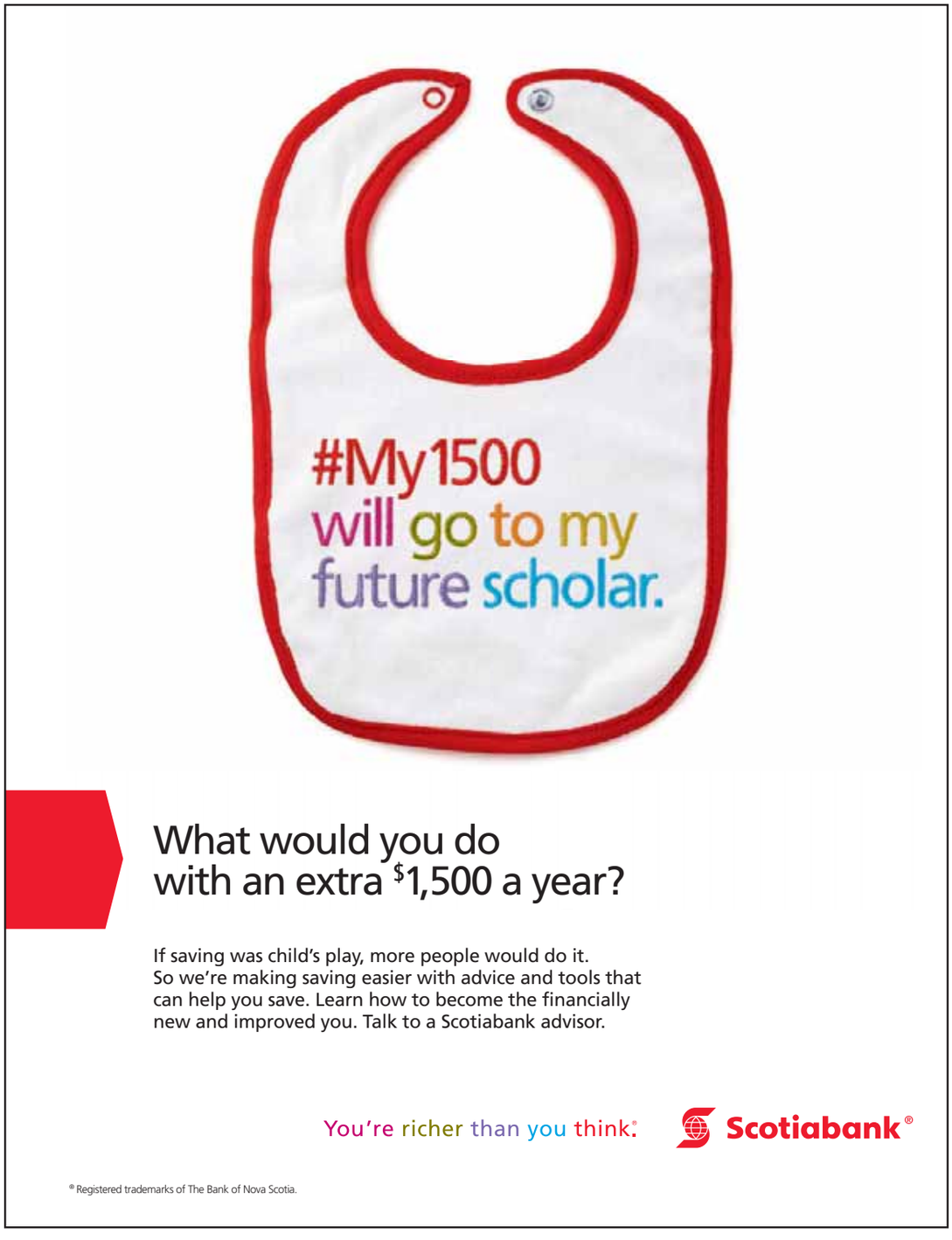
He said B.C. saw an abnormal amount of lightning early in the fire season but now is the time when the core lightning season normally begins.

166

The number of wildfires currently raging across B.C.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The wildfire service says 96 properties are on evacuation order across B.C., about 300 members of the Alexis Creek First Nation remain on evacuation alert, and a campfire ban is still in place except for Haida Gwaii and the fog zone. THE CANADIAN PRESS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Surrey HUB's Gordon Hall locks up his bike Thursday at the new parking facility TransLink has installed at Surrey's King George SkyTrain station. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Surrey rides

TRANSPORTATION

Cycling infrastructure growing

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

While Vancouver's downtown separated bike lanes get all the attention, Surrey has been quietly rolling along with its steadily growing cycling infrastructure.

Seventeen new kilometres of bike lanes, separated paths and off-street bikeways are being added this year, contributing to an overall, fast-growing network of 520 kilometres.

Adding to that compliment this month is TransLink's new $345,000 bike parkade at King George Station, which provides secure storage for cyclists connecting on the SkyTrain line for longer commutes into cities north of the Fraser.

"This kind of infrastructure is critical for the city," said Jamie Boan, manager of transportation for the City of Surrey. "We are an enormous city and so distances are quite significant, so providing options where people can cycle part way and use transit are very important for us in terms of trying to move people from the car into other modes."

Research shows most cyclists are comfortable cycling between five and 10 kilometres during their commute, and having the bike parkade at the station allows cyclists to ride in from Surrey's most dense communities, such as Fleetwood, Newton and Guildford, and hop on the SkyTrain with no fuss.

The parkade, which costs $1 a day up to a maximum of $8 a month, is accessible only to registered users by key card.

The 70 parking stalls are in addition to the 60 long-term bike lockers that were already at the station, but have been oversubscribed for some time.

The bike parkade at King George is the second of its kind.

TransLink has already been operating one at Main Street-Science World Station and plans to roll out three more at Metrotown, Commercial-Broadway and Joyce-Collingwood stations.

The new facility gets a thumbs up from Gordon Hall, co-chair of HUB's Surrey cycling committee.

"You can't take your bike on transit in the direction of rush hour so people need a place to lock up their bikes," said Hall. "We're very pleased with this system, it offered the ability to expand and to have more bicycles in their system. It's a very good alternative (to the bike lockers)."

Bicycle theft remains a common problem throughout the region, so Hall likes that parkade access is restricted to key card holders.

"We're hoping for more facilities like this in all major city centre areas," he said.

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Chair operation a surprise for police

CRIME

Officer posing as target for attacks found only kindness

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

A veteran Vancouver police officer went undercover as a wheelchair user with a brain injury in an attempt to catch those responsible for a spate of violent attacks on people in wheelchairs since January 2014.

Equipped with a $16,000 wheelchair borrowed from GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre and a backstory that he became an incomplete quadriplegic in a motorcycle accident, Staff Sgt. Mark Horsley spent five days and nights in the Downtown Eastside leaving himself vulnerable to an attack.

"Essentially our operator was our bait, and we were trying to catch the predator," Insp. Howard Chow said at a news conference Thursday.

Despite intentionally leaving cash hanging out of his fanny pack, he wasn't robbed or attacked. Instead, Horsley was surprised and inspired by the volume of kindness and compassion he received from the community.

Two young men talked to him and returned an hour later with pizza. One man bent down to zip up his fanny pack. In more than 300 interactions, some of which involved bartering, no one took advantage of him or took any of his money; in fact, he walked away $24 richer.

Staff Sgt. Mark Horsley went undercover in the Downtown Eastside in an attempt to find a person who is attacking people in wheelchairs. COURTESY VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

"I was ready to be victimized. Our plan was just to take whatever the assault or the robbery was.... I was really taken by the politeness, the courteousness," said Horsley, who has been going undercover since 1986.

"In the DTES, I found that far more people would get down to my level to talk to me," he said, adding people would often check if he had someone to care for him.

Police didn't find the person or people responsible for the 28 attacks on people in wheelchairs over the past 18 months (21 assaults, six robberies and one sexual assault), the majority of which occurred in the Downtown Eastside.

> **"I was ready to be victimized.... I was really taken by the politeness, the courteousness.**
> Staff Sgt. Mark Horsley

But they aren't considering this a failed operation.

Instead, they're using it as a chance to draw attention to the fact that it's not just the police watching out for people who use wheelchairs — it's the entire community.

"Part of what we're doing, bringing awareness to a despicable person that might commit a crime like this," Horsley said. "It's an entire community that is supporting the vulnerable."

Walt Lawrence, a peer support worker who has used a wheelchair for 46 years after a diving accident, helped coach Horsley to use the chair. He said he feels bad for the perpetrator who has fallen to that level.

Ian Denison of GF Strong agreed.

"If these perpetrators get wind of the video, they might be thinking twice."

YOUTUBE

Video shows men atop Trump Tower

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Police are investigating an online video that appears to show two men breaking into the Trump Tower construction site in downtown Vancouver and climbing to the top to take photos and video of the sunrise.

Sgt. Randy Fincham, spokesman for Vancouver police, said investigators are aware of two recent incidents that appear to have taken place at Trump Tower and on a crane on top of the building.

"On two separate occasions, two men have broken into the construction site, climbed 63 storeys, climbed to the top of the tower and took pictures and videos," Fincham told reporters. "We are actively looking for these people."

He said the men could face criminal charges, including commercial breaking-and-entering, mischief and negligence.

The video, which was captured by a GoPro camera and uploaded to YouTube on Wednesday, shows two men climbing to the top of the tower before dawn and then scaling a crane on top of the building.

As the sun rises, they walk over the top of the crane, apparently without harnesses, while one of the men dangles his leg over the edge.

At one point, one of the men holds a selfie stick and captures footage of their faces, which are hidden behind ski masks.

Fincham described their actions as extremely dangerous, not only to themselves but for others below them.

"If they knock something off, they could cause serious injuries, if not the death, of someone below them," he said.

"It's extremely foolish. The fences are around these buildings for a reason."

WITH FILES FROM EMILY JACKSON/METRO

A screen grab of a video shows two masked men at the top of the Trump Tower site downtown. YOUTUBE

HEALTH FIRINGS

Legal changes to pave way for probe

British Columbia's ongoing health-firings scandal is about to share the stage with the Liberal government's vaunted liquefied-natural-gas project law.

Attorney General Suzanne Anton says she will introduce a legislative change next week that gives ombudsperson Jay Chalke more powers to access data and interview witnesses as he investigates the firings of eight health researchers.

B.C.'s legislature has been recalled to ratify legislation involving a proposed LNG plant near Prince Rupert, but continuing controversy surrounding the September 2012 dismissal of the health workers has prompted Anton to take action.

The government requested earlier this month that Chalke review the flawed firings, but he told an all-party committee he needs more powers to do an investigation.

The NDP have been calling for an independent public inquiry instead, but the government has refused, saying that would be an expensive and lengthy process.

One of the fired health researchers, Roderick MacIsaac, committed suicide following his dismissal.

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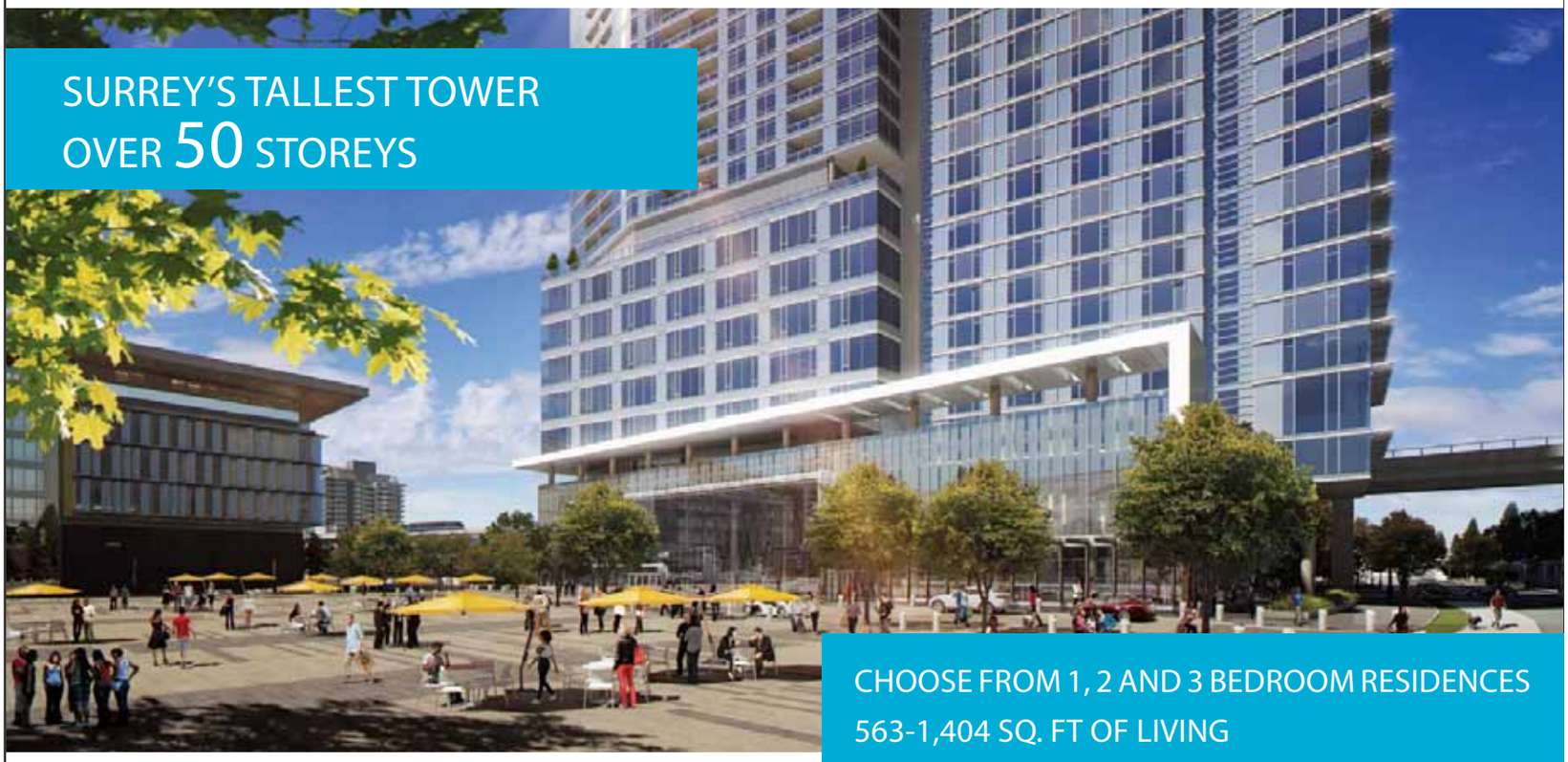

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Paddling OK despite E. coli

WATER

False Creek boating risky, but allowed: Health agency

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver Coastal Health definitely doesn't condone swimming in False Creek, but paddlers can proceed at their own risk despite E. coli levels in excess of Health Canada's guidelines for the recreational activity.

Health Canada guidelines suggest people should stop using water for secondary contact activities such as rowing, sailing or canoeing when E. coli levels rise above 1,000 bacteria per 100 mL.

E. coli levels in the eastern part of False Creek surpassed that threshold in early-to-mid June and have remained above 1,000 since, according to weekly water samples taken by Metro Vancouver.

Paddlers participate in Vancouver's Dragon Boat Festival on June 20. Vancouver hasn't banned paddlers from E. coli-laden False Creek. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

But Vancouver Coastal Health doesn't follow the Health Canada guidelines because they are not based on evidence, VCH's manager of environmental health Randall Ash said Thursday.

"That guideline, if you read it carefully, they're quite clear that they don't really know at what point it becomes unsafe for secondary activities," Ash said.

He's right — the guidelines state: "insufficient data are available to derive precise health-based faecal indicator limit values intended to protect users engaged in secondary contact recreational activities from exposure to faecal contamination."

1,184

As of Thursday, the waterway's E. coli level was 1,184, down from 2,226 at the start of July.

Instead of banning paddlers, VCH put up advisory signs around the creek warning them to take caution (and to remind swimmers to stay out completely).

Paddlers should avoid getting water in their eyes, shower with soap after exiting the water and wash their hands with soap before eating.

"There is a risk. They need to decide whether they want to expose themselves in this way with secondary contact," Ash said.

VCH does, however, use the Health Canada guidelines for swimming — it closes beaches if E. coli exceeds 200 bacteria per 100 mL, a threshold that Ash said is based on better evidence.

"With swimming there's an expectation you're going to swallow some of the water. With paddling, there's an expectation your limbs will become wetted, but it's unclear if or whether you'll ingest any of the water," he said.

There's not enough research to pinpoint an E. coli level where VCH would advise people to absolutely avoid the water, Ash said, but authorities will continue to monitor the situation carefully.

Plus, there's good news. The latest water samples published Thursday show the E. coli level has dropped to 1,184 from a peak of 2,226 in early July.

City officials are working hard to identify and fix the cause of the problem, although it could be a result of numerous factors including but not limited to the warm weather, lack of rain, sewer issues, boaters dumping sewage into the water and dog poop on the beaches.

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QMU041	2012 MINI Cooper Baker Street	Roof Top Grey	38,207	$19,755	**$19,155**
QMU005A	2012 MINI Cooper Baker Street	Roof Top Grey	18,318	$20,685	**$19,885**
PM289A	2012 MINI Cooper Knightsbridge	Chili Red	12,060	$22,685	**$21,485**
PM333A	2013 MINI Cooper Knightsbridge	Pepper White	41,704	$21,085	**$20,285**
QMU045	2015 MINI Cooper	Midnight Black	11,369	$25,900	**$24,900**
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QMU038	2014 MINI Cooper S	Thunder Grey	28,189	$35,688	**$34,688**
QMU060	2012 MINI Cooper Coupe	Eclipse Grey	14,251	$22,685	**$21,785**
QMU034	2014 MINI Cooper S Roadster	Lightning Blue	4,367	$34,105	**$33,105**
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Rex Chen, 14, will be starting at the University of B.C. this September. CONTRIBUTED

Canada's answer to Doogie Howser

TEEN GENIUS

New University of B.C. student is tender age of 14 years old

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

When Rex Chen graduates from the University of British Columbia, he still won't be able to legally order a beer.

That's because the Vancouver student, who begins his general science degree next semester, is just 14 years old. Rex turns 15 in September, and will still be 18 on his expected graduation date in May 2019.

"People are surprised," Rex said of the reaction he gets when he tells others that he is a university student. "I really don't see it as anything to be surprised about myself. I just decided to start early and give myself more opportunities to do things with my life."

Early university acceptance is only the latest achievement for Rex. On Monday, he began a two-month research internship at TRIUMF, Canada's national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics at UBC.

Last year, Rex was lead author of a paper published in the Harvard Journal of Emerging Investigators, which is written by middle and high school students.

The paper, co-authored by his father Chi-Ming Chen, a physics professor in Taiwan, outlined his research designing a hypothetical facility that uses solar energy for seawater desalination and generating electricity. The research was based on a class project for which Rex won silver and a special physics award at last year's Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair.

Rex is a graduate of the University of B.C.'s Transition Program, which accepts 20 academically gifted students between Grade 7 and Grade 9 and helps them fast track their high school education over two years with the goal of achieving early entrance to university.

Although the accelerated course load was difficult, Rex said he enjoyed the challenge and building friendships with his equally gifted peers. As a middle school student in Coquitlam, Rex said he had a hard time making friends.

"I wasn't happy," he said. "I was basically not learning anything. The hardest part was being isolated socially because you're basically on an intellectual level above other people and they don't want to associate with you."

Rex said he isn't sure yet what he would like to pursue as a career, but said he enjoys computer science and paleontology. "Every kid has a dinosaur obsession but I kind of took that to the next level," he said with a laugh. "My parents never stopped me from continuing with it."

> **"I just decided to start early and give myself more opportunities to do things with my life."**
> Rex Chen

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Lenovo ThinkPad® Edge E555 A10
CPU | AMD-A10 | RAM | 4GB | HDD | ..... 500 GB | OS | ..... Win 7 Pro 64bit | GPU | .. Radeon R7 M260X | WARRANTY | ..... 1 year | SKU | 20DH002TUS | SCREEN | 15.6" LED | RESOLUTION | 1366x768
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The buzz about urban beekeeping

In a leafy Point Grey backyard, citizen scientists watch a local beekeeper as he delicately pulls out frames covered in honeycomb and buzzing bees. He has 14 hives in backyards around the city. A professor and bee lover tends her pollinator pasture filled with bee-friendly plants. In a community garden, young adults attend a beekeeping class, learning about bee habitat and protection. At a local park, schoolchildren studying bees help build a pollinator house. Beekeeping has seen a surge in popularity over the past few years, and more people are learning about the fascinating world of bees and how to protect them. **AMY LOGAN / FOR METRO**

Garrett Kean, a local beekeeper, pulls some frames to check on his honeybees' progress.

A small cluster of bees gather to feed each other.

A bumble bee

A close-up of a frame from a hive, covered in waxy comb.

The bright colours of a backyard pollinator pasture attract bees.

A pollinator house created by students and artists at Trillium Park North.

CURIOUS ABOUT BEES?

Watch: Buzzscaping, a short documentary about building a pollinator house by local artist and filmmaker Martin Borden: vimeo.com/78438493

Get involved: Thirty per cent of wild bees and honeybees have disappeared in Canada. Citizen scientists are trained to identify native bee species and collect data that can be used to monitor and protect native populations: eya.ca/project-view/citizen-scientists/

Learn: Vancouver offers a multitude of bee-related workshops and classes: urbanbeenetwork.ca.

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The Speaker of the Senate says the upper chamber's ethics officer has been asked to look into Sen. Don Meredith, pictured, over the results of an investigation into how he treated his office staff. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Senator faces new review

GOVERNMENT

Ethics officer to check claims of workplace harassment

The Speaker of the Senate says the upper chamber's ethics officer has been asked to look into Sen. Don Meredith over the results of an investigation into how he treated his office staff.

Leo Housakos publicly confirmed in a short statement Thursday morning that Meredith has been told he will undergo an ethics probe.

Housakos says he and other top senators on the Senate's internal economy committee felt it was "imperative" the investigation results be referred to ethics officer Lyse Ricard.

Depending on the outcome of the latest ethics review, Meredith could face penalties ranging from a forced public apology on the floor of the Senate to suspension without pay.

Sources said Wednesday night that six former staffers who spoke with outside investigators made allegations of workplace harassment against Meredith, saying he was a bully, rude and unprofessional toward his staff.

There are also allegations of psychological harassment and sometimes making irrational demands of his staff.

The allegations in the investigation report remain unproven, and none of the staffers who took part, nor any whose stories are included in the report, wanted to file a formal complaint against Meredith, sources say.

The Senate first ordered the investigation into Meredith's office in February after top senators witnessed what they felt was a troubling turnover of staff in Meredith's office.

The former Conservative senator, who now sits as an independent, has not returned multiple requests for comment.

Meredith is already under investigation by the Senate's ethics officer after published allegations last month that he had a sexual relationship with a 16-year-old girl.

The woman told Torstar News Service that Meredith initially believed her to be 18, but she told him her true age within six weeks of the pair's first meeting at a Black History Month event at a church in Ottawa.

The Torstar report said the woman, who is now 18, had sexually explicit online chats with Meredith and that the relationship progressed to kissing and touching before she turned 18.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FACEBOOK

Conservatives like their country music

You might say they're a little bit country, a little bit Christian.

That's the profile that emerges of Conservative party supporters based on the books, music, movies and television shows they "like" on their Facebook pages.

Facebook Canada has analyzed the cultural preferences of Canadians who indicate support for one of the federal political parties. And it's found that Conservatives are a relatively unique breed, having little in common with Liberals, New Democrats and Greens whose preferences often coincide.

The top five Conservative musical faves? Country singers Taylor Swift, Carrie Underwood, George Strait and Brad Paisley and Christian rock band Casting Crowns.

'LIKES'

Favourite Tory movies: God's Not Dead, The Fast and the Furious, Son of God, Transformers and Heaven Is For Real.

The Conservative predilection for Christian themes is reflected in their choice of movies, books and films as well, although they're not averse to a little comedy or action flicks.

New Democrats and Greens both like The Daily Show, This Hour Has 22 Minutes and Democracy Now!, and they both put The Lord of the Rings in their top five movie picks while the trilogy of the same name and The Hobbit made their top five books.

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Astronauts dodge debris

SPACE STATION

Team seeks shelter from space junk in Soyuz capsule

A piece of space junk forced the three space station astronauts to seek emergency shelter Thursday.

For nearly an hour, the American and two Russians hunkered down in their Soyuz capsule, which is docked to the International Space Station, in case they had to make a quick getaway. The fragment from an old Russian weather satellite ended up passing harmlessly, about 3 kilometres away.

"Happy there was no impact," NASA astronaut Scott Kelly said via Twitter. "Great co-ordination with international ground teams. Excellent training."

It's only the fourth time in the 16-year history of the space station that a crew has had to rush into a Russian Soyuz for protection from potentially dangerous debris. The exact size of the object was unknown, according to a NASA spokesman.

Astronaut Scott Kelly sits in a Soyuz simulator at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia, earlier this year. BILL INGALLS/NASA VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Normally, NASA learns about incoming junk sooner, and the space station moves out of the way. But there wasn't time for that Thursday; the crew was notified just 1 1/2 hours in advance.

The three men were already up and working when Mission Control ordered them into the Soyuz on Thursday morning. They did not need to put on their Soyuz flight suits, and there was no rush, said NASA spokesman Dan Huot.

The all-clear came 1 1/2 hours after the initial alert, around 8 a.m. It took the astronauts more than an hour to get their 400-kilometre-high home back to normal operation, following the "shelter in place," as NASA calls it. Research work that was interrupted will be rescheduled, according to Mission Control.

Kelly and his Russia roommates, Mikhail Kornienko and Gennady Padalka, are getting used to junk in their neighbourhood.

Twice since the trio arrived in March, the space station has had to dodge pieces of orbiting debris, in April and June. Three more men are due to arrive next week.

The last time a station crew had to jump into their Soyuz for protection was in 2012.

Space junk is at an all-time high because of all the clutter in orbit, the result of accidentally colliding spacecraft, exploding satellites and rocket stages, and deliberate run-ins ordered up as tests by China and the United States several years back. Just last February, a U.S. military meteorological satellite blew up, presumably because of a failed battery, scattering dozens of pieces of debris.

The Defence Department is currently tracking about 22,000 dead satellites, spent rocket bodies and all other forms of orbital debris.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLORADO

Theatre shooter guilty

Colorado theatre shooter James Holmes was convicted Thursday in the chilling 2012 attack on defenceless moviegoers at a midnight Batman premiere after jurors swiftly rejected defence arguments that the former graduate student was insane and driven to murder by delusions.

The 27-year-old Holmes, who had been working toward his PhD in neuroscience, could get the death penalty for the massacre that left 12 people dead and dozens of others wounded.

The initial phase of Holmes' trial took 11 weeks, but it took jurors only about 12 hours to decide all 165 charges. They must now decide whether Holmes should pay with his life.

The verdict came almost three years after Holmes, dressed in body armour, slipped through the emergency exit of the theatre in suburban Denver and replaced the Hollywood violence of the movie The Dark Knight Rises with real human carnage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Striking a balance

HEALTH

Poll says 40% of Canadians will work on their vacations

It appears a majority of working Canadians don't mind handling work-related matters on their own time — except during vacations, according to an online survey published Thursday.

The Randstad human-resources advisory firm says 59 per cent of the adult Canadian employees surveyed in April and May said they didn't mind handling work-related matters on their own time.

That number dropped to 40 per cent when it came to vacations, although Randstad says there was a big difference between the sexes — with men much more likely than women to say they choose to do work during their holidays.

It says 60 per cent of the men surveyed said they felt pressured by a boss to be available by email or phone while on vacation, compared with 45 per cent of the women surveyed.

Randstad Canada's Faith Tull says employers have a responsibility to help employees strike the right balance, which she says is essential to keeping them motivated and to avoid exhaustion.

"We need to encourage them to disconnect completely from time to time, and be careful as managers not to blur the lines between home and work," Tull says.

Randstad says its survey is conducted four times a year in 33 countries, with at least 400 interviews per country it covers. Respondents are aged 18 to 65 and work at least 24 hours per week in a paid job.

The polling industry's professional body, the Marketing Research and Intelligence Association, says online surveys cannot be assigned a margin of error. THE CANADIAN PRESS

E-COMMERCE AMAZON TURNS 20 Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, along with his stuffed Pikachu Pokémon doll, discussing the company's expansion at a New York news conference in 1999. The company, which launched July 16, 1995, began as an online bookseller. But as it celebrates its 20th anniversary, the company has evolved into an e-commerce powerhouse, making $89 million in annual revenue. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ONLINE SHOPPING

PayPal, eBay forecast the journey ahead

Once eBay and PayPal split up today, they'll face different challenges than they did as a combined company.

E-commerce company eBay first said in September 2014 it would split off its payments unit PayPal in order to focus on growing their profits individually.

In a call after the two units posted quarterly profits that topped Wall Street's expectations, PayPal President Dan Schulman and eBay President Devin Wenig each outlined their plans following the split:

eBay

EBay now is focusing on reinvigorating its marketplace business, which includes the e-commerce arm of eBay. It stumbled last year when it had to deal with a change in Google's algorithms that made eBay products come up in search results less often.

Wenig said the company is asking sellers to include more detailed descriptions in their product listings to help improve search results. Wenig said the company is also focusing on gaining traffic through social media: "Our absolute priority is to improve our competitiveness and drive more stable profitable growth over the long term," Wenig said.

PayPal

PayPal's goal going forward is to get more merchants to accept its payments in stores. It also wants PayPal users to pay with the service two or three times a week. PayPal also plans to grow internationally via its acquisition of Xoom: "We believe our technology platform, global reach can move PayPal from being an occasional transaction to being an integral part of consumers' financial lives," Schulman said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS

The journal Science praised B.C.'s efforts to track and treat HIV/AIDS but said the province should try preventative drugs for those at risk.

THE KOHLER REPORT: ON ARMPIT HAIR AND DOUBLE STANDARDS

What upsets me most about my uneasiness with pit fuzz is that I wasn't just being fastidious, I was being sexist.

You know that expression, "Hey, maybe you'll surprise yourself"? People usually use it in a positive way: "Don't be worried about that presentation on Friday; who knows, maybe you'll surprise yourself." I think we're always hoping to surprise ourselves. Too bad we can't do it with parties — if nothing else, it would make life less boring. But I recently surprised myself in a bad way when it came to my attention that the sight of female armpit hair, which is making a comeback, makes me squeamish.

Just to put my self-surprise into perspective: I like The Grateful Dead, I wear Birkenstocks and I have never once paid money to have any of my body hair removed from ... my body. (Okay, that's not true; I *once* paid to have my eyebrows threaded, which resulted in me looking frightened for two weeks.)

My point is, aside from some highlights, a mild-to-serious mascara addiction and a penchant for the Venus razor, I'm pretty low maintenance. Live and let live, grow and let grow! So why, upon seeing a few ladies in my neighborhood sporting underarm-growth, have I been, for lack of a better term, grossed out?

What upsets me most about my uneasiness with pit fuzz is that I realize now I wasn't just being fastidious, I was being sexist.

A few weeks ago, I was talking to some friends about a woman who works at my local coffee shop. She often wears tank tops and has hairy pits. I said to my friends, "I mean, I don't care if you grow out your pits, but like, if you work in a restaurant, wear sleeves." One of my friends suggested I only felt that way because it was a woman. I protested that NO, I'd think it was gross either way.

You can imagine my horror when my friend pointed out that for the past two hours we'd been attended by a male server, with hairy armpits, wearing a tank top. The only thought I'd had about him was that he kind of resembled a turtle. I had indeed *not* noticed his pit hair.

Side note: my sexism aside, if you work in a bar/restaurant/coffee shop, man or woman, and you haven't mowed recently, wear sleeves! Or at least little underarm hairnets. ("I ordered cherry pie, not hairy pie!")

I'm not going to beat myself up too much. A quick Google search will teach you that women started shaving their armpits around 1915, when sleeveless dresses were introduced. I grew up in a world where most women (at least in North America) shave(d) their armpits. So, while the "me" I know doesn't think women should feel the need to shave, it doesn't mean the sight of hairy pits won't be jarring at first. (The first time I saw skinny jeans, I threw up in my mouth. Now a boot cut makes my skin crawl.)

If women are in the process of knocking an unnecessary chore off our socially constructed to-do list, then I say go for it. I don't know if I'll jump on board right away (I have a giant box of razors I got at Costco, so ...), but I will definitely make an effort to get to the point where, upon seeing a bushy pit, I'll be saying things like, "You go, girl!" And eventually — as I did with Mr. Turtle — I won't even notice.

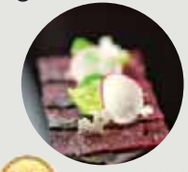
Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From **medical mishaps** to **culinary country foods,** Metro weighs in on the news making headlines this week

Baby boy who?

Parents-to-be who can't make up their minds often end up with their offspring temporarily named "baby boy Bartkowicz" or "baby girl Smith" during their hospital stay. That's a problem, says a study in the journal Pediatrics. Generic names increase the risk of mixing up pint-sized patients. Retract-and-reorders — an indication of medical error — decreased 36 per cent when distinctive names were used. All the more reason to get your child's name ready well in advance. SOURCE: NPR

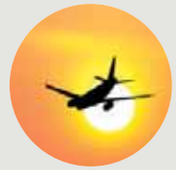


The Gwich'in gourmet

In a homecoming of sorts, Rich Francis, a renowned Northwest Territories-raised, Ontario-based chef from the Gwich'in First Nation, just finished a one-week residency in Iqaluit. He cooked a high-class meal with local ingredients (called country foods) to raise money for kids in need. His Northern delights included crispy Arctic char, maktaaq (whale blubber), red berries and Labrador tea. More than $6,000 was raised for a free breakfast program in Iqaluit schools. SOURCE: NUNATSIAQ ONLINE

Pay it forward (70 years)

A 95-year-old Jewish man who was rescued from Nazi-occupied Austria when he was a child is helping Syrian Christians escape the clutches of ISIL. Lord George Weidenfeld says he wants to repay his debt because Quakers and Irish evangelicals helped him escape to Britain in 1938. Weidenfeld paid for 150 Syrians from areas under attack by the terror group to be flown by private jet to safety in Poland. He hopes to help 2,000 in all. SOURCE: THE INDEPENDENT



Lights out for solar plane

The Swiss team trying to fly a fully solar-powered plane around the world is grounded for the rest of the year. Their Solar Impulse aircraft's batteries were damaged on the last leg of the journey from Japan to Hawaii, where the plane will likely stay until April 2016. Then, if all goes well, it will cross the American continent, the Atlantic and head back to Abu Dhabi, UAE, where the circumnavigation began in March. The first 7,200 km of the whirlwind world tour was completed in just 118 hours. SOURCE: BBC

metroview

How I satisfied my spiritual hunger with urban foraging

Mila Petkovic
Metro | Toronto

The wilderness of Toronto's High Park is my habitat, and this eager urbanite is on the hunt. With one swift flick of my pocket knife, I cut the red flower cluster of a staghorn sumac away from the branch and tuck it into my bag. "I must look strange," I chuckle to myself. Next stop: the mulberry tree.

What am I doing? Why, an action as old as time. Only now it has a 21st-century pet name: urban foraging.

Our built environment abounds with wild edibles. It has certainly changed the way I look at weeds and walk through the world. City parks, ravines, lawns and gardens hold the key to some of my favourite treats: blackberries, mint, lavender and even morel mushrooms at the right time of year. The sumac I harvested can be made into a tasty lemonade-like drink chock-full of vitamin C.

It all started when I decided to leave my full-time office job to pursue a freelance career. One side effect of this decision (besides financial uncertainty) is more time to do the things I love, including reconnecting with the life force that fuels my everyday existence: food.

Our industrialized food system delivers us goods in boxes from around the world. Many of us don't know what the sources of our foods look like (cashew trees anyone?) or whether they were sustainably grown. Food is literally medicine, but the grind of fast-paced modern life has many of us crunched for time and turning to microwave dinners containing unpronounceable ingredients for relief. Our natural connection to the ecosystems that sustain us is being destroyed, and we are left out of touch, disempowered and even sick.

Foraging, gardening, hitting up the farmers' market and even the simple act of preparing our own meals is a challenge to this paradigm, and consciousness is shifting. Urban agriculture projects and grassroots initiatives like Not Far From the Tree (a Toronto group that pairs up volunteer pickers with landowners and splits the harvest with food banks) are taking root. Organic, local and free range are the hot items in the food world now, though not everyone can afford them.

Perhaps it is a profound need to reconnect with the earth that drives me to forage. Maybe it's the sheer joy of discovering a ripe fruit or the tactile satisfaction of plucking it directly from the vine. Or better yet, the sense of community created by sharing a jar of homemade jam. It's true what they say: some of the best things in life are free.

Where's the line between art and porn? Visit metronews.ca to answer our poll and have your say.

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Justin Bieber developing "futuristic" sound for "very personal" new album

Amy Schumer, who co-wrote and stars in the film, cast friends and fellow comedians (including Bill Hader, pictured) to star alongside her in Trainwreck. HANDOUT

Amy Schumer's got the ticket

TRAINWRECK

Schumer creates great roles for great comedians

IN FOCUS

Richard Crouse

In Trainwreck, a new comedy directed by Judd Apatow, Amy Schumer plays a promiscuous New Yorker who finds love.

It's a side-splitting movie that will be Schumer's big-screen breakout, but the film is also populated by a very funny supporting cast, many of whom are Schumer's Manhattan comedy peers.

"I got to give my friends work," Schumer, who also wrote the script, says, "and they did great in it."

Colin Quinn and Dave Attell are two standups and friends who make big impressions in the film.

"I consider Colin to be like, in vampire terms, the maker," says Attell.

Quinn, a legendary comedian and former SNL Weekend Update anchor, co-stars as Amy's father, a cranky old man with an attitude and a possible drug problem.

"With actors, it's not about the lines, it's about the behaviour," says Quinn. "With us, it's just about the words. We love it, so if you come up with something funny and it's quiet behind the camera and they yell 'Cut' and everybody starts laughing, that's the best.

"In so many things it's not about the words, but in stand-up, it's all about the words, the order of the words. I feel more than any other art form, the audience matters so much. You have this contentious relationship with them, but they are so much a part of it. I feel like musicians get together and they jam with one each other. We need the crowd to jam. To rehearse."

Attell is a club veteran, best known for his TV show Insomniac with Dave Attell and dark-edged lines like, "You know, men and women are a lot alike in certain situations. Like when they're both on fire — they're exactly alike."

In the movie, he plays a homeless man who talks to Amy everyday.

"This is the character, of the four characters that I've ever played in movies, that is most like me," he says. "That's me in five years. That's me after the last season of Last Comic Standing, physically and emotionally.

"I've been in like, three other movies, and this movie was the most fun. You show up and they want you to riff around and you go for the jokes and you keep going until you feel you got it. I love that, especially for people who aren't classically trained actors."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Ant-Man	★★★★
Trainwreck	★★★★★
Mr. Holmes	★★★

HOW RATING WORKS

★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
★	SKIP IT

You get the feeling that as much as these guys enjoyed making Trainwreck, they are more comfortable on a stage in front of a crowd than they are on a movie set. Both agree that hostile audiences fuel them creatively.

"When it's not going well, you still have to do the job and that's what makes it a job," says Attell. "That's also often when you come up with the most enlightening stuff, in the tough crowd moment."

Quinn may prefer live venues but according to Jimmy Fallon he may have more movie work coming his way. The Tonight Show host predicts an Oscar nomination for the comic's work in the film.

"Why not?" Quinn deadpans. "I wasn't expecting one but an Academy Award would not affect me now, because after I didn't get nominated for Grown Ups 2 I feel like it's a rigged game."

FEMALE SUPERHERO

Evangeline Lily hopes to make a mountain out of Ant-Man

Evangeline Lily has come a long way from nearly walking away from acting completely following her Lost experiences. "I think I made it quite publicly known that I wasn't sure if I had a future as an actress, if I wanted to pursue it beyond the show," she says. But she's made her peace with Hollywood — which is good, because her Ant-Man role may keep her busy for a while.

With all the talk about strong female characters and the need for female superheroes, do you feel like you get to be the future of that?

I would love to be. If Marvel presented me a platform that I could get up on and do that, that would be a very immense honour for me. I think it's fairly publicly known that I like to represent strong females and that it's important to me what I put out on the screen.

Have they talked to you at all about the future of the character and when she might show up again?

No, actually, they haven't. I'm still waiting to find out. There is this running joke within the company that all the Marvel women are always pregnant. Scarlett Johansson, Cobie Smulders, Zoe Saldana. Well, they all suddenly have job security. We're all suddenly in these multi-picture deals and we know there's another gig coming so we don't necessarily need to go out and look. I'm assuming and hoping that I'm going to get a call from Marvel sometime saying, "The movie was a hit, we want to make a sequel."

So the secret to being a successful working mother is having a deal with Marvel?

Exactly! That's all you need, and then you can sit back and relax.

So until that call comes in?

I'm working on an adult novel series — or I'm trying to. We'll see if I accomplish that mission or not. I'm also working on the second Squickerwonkers book, which is the sequel to the children's story book I published last year, and that's my big focus right now.

How do you view your acting versus your writing?

I think of this as my main gig, as in I'm a breadwinner for my family and this is what brings home the bacon. But as far as where I really spend my time and passion, I've been doing about a film every two or three years since Lost ended, and between that all that time is being spent working on my writing.

NED EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD

Evangeline Lily CONTRIBUTED

Now playing

ACTION & ADVENTURE

Ant-Man

Director: Peyton Reed
Starring: Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas

Armed with the astonishing ability to shrink in scale but increase in strength, master thief Scott Lang must embrace his inner-hero and help his mentor, Dr. Hank Pym, protect the secret behind his spectacular Ant-Man suit. The next evolution of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 78% Audience: +98%

COMEDY

Trainwreck

Director: Judd Apatow
Starring: Amy Schumer, Bill Hader

Since she was a little girl, it's been drilled into Amy's head by her rascal of a dad that monogamy isn't realistic. Now a magazine writer, Amy lives by that credo — enjoying what she feels is an uninhibited life free from boring romantic commitment — but in actuality, she's kind of in a rut.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 94% Audience: +96%

DRAMA

Mr. Holmes

Director: Bill Condon
Starring: Ian McKellen, Laura Linney

Mr. Holmes is a new twist on the world's most famous detective. 1947, an aging Sherlock Holmes revisits the circumstances of the unsolved case that forced him into retirement, and searches for answers to the mysteries of life and love — before it's too late.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 87% Audience: +97%

DRAMA

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl

Director: Alfonso Gomez-Rejon
Starring: Thomas Mann, Olivia Cooke

This Sundance winner is the story of Greg Gaines, an awkward high school senior whose mom forces him to spend time with a girl in his class who was just diagnosed with cancer.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 80% Audience: 90%

DRAMA & ROMANCE

Suite Française

Director: Saul Dibb
Starring: Margot Robbie, Michelle Williams

Based on the bestselling book by Irene Nemirovsky and set during the German occupation of France in the 1940s, Suite Française tells the story of Lucile Angellier as she awaits news from her husband, a prisoner of war. A story of the power of love and the tragedy of war.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 76% Audience: +89%

DRAMA

Jimmy's Hall

Director: Ken Loach
Starring: Barry Ward, Simone Kirby

In 1921 Jimmy Gralton's sin was to build a dance hall on a rural crossroads in an Ireland on the brink of Civil War. The Pearse-Connolly Hall was a place where young people could come to learn, to argue, to dream ... but above all to dance and have fun.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 74% Audience: +59%

DRAMA & COMEDY

Tangerine

Director: Sean Baker
Starring: Kitana Kiki Rodriguez, Mya Taylor

A working girl tears through Tinseltown on Christmas Eve searching for the pimp who broke her heart.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 93% Audience: 84%

MYSTERY & SUSPENSE

Strangerland

Director: Kim Farrant
Starring: Nicole Kidman, Joseph Fiennes

New to the remote Australian desert town of Nathgari, the Parker family is thrown into crisis when Catherine and Matthew discover that their two teenage kids, Tommy and Lily, have mysteriously disappeared just before a massive dust storm hits the town.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 34% Audience: 31%

ANIMATION

Minions

Directors: Pierre Coffin, Kyle Balda
Starring: Sandra Bullock, Jon Hamm

Minions, perpetually serving the most despicable of masters, find themselves without someone to serve and fall into a deep depression. But one Minion named Kevin has a plan, and he and his pals venture out into the world to find a new evil boss.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 55% Audience: 59%

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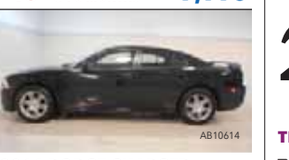
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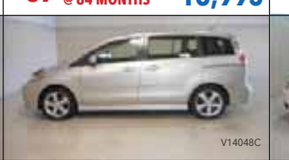
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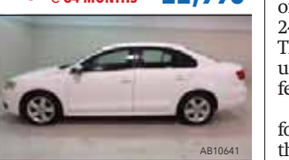
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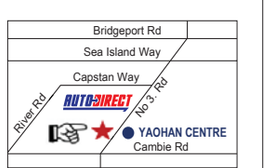

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Emilia Clarke, seen here in Game of Thrones, was nominated for an Emmy Award for outstanding supporting actress in a drama series for her role on the show. HBO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GoT reigns with 24 Emmy noms

TELEVISION

Nominations recognize diverse talent

The elaborate fantasy saga Game of Thrones received a leading 24 Emmy Awards nominations Thursday, its stature apparently untouched by backlash over a female character's rape scene.

The series is a contender again for top drama honours, an award that has eluded it since it debuted in 2011.

The TV academy took a modest step toward recognizing TV's increasing embrace of diverse TV talent, giving best actress nods to black stars Taraji P. Henson for Empire and Viola Davis for How to Get Away with Murder.

"This is what it's supposed to be like. You should recognize actors and creative people in this industry from every level of all colours who do great work," Queen Latifah said.

The nominations set up the possibility of a history-making win: An African-American actress has never won the top drama acting award. "I gotta win! I gotta win for history!" an exuberant Henson said in May when asked about the prospect during an Empire panel.

However, two-time nominee Kerry Washington, the black star of Scandal, was left out this year.

Family comedy "black-ish" earned an acting bid for star Anthony Anderson, but failed to gain a best series nomination.

Also snubbed: freshman hit hip-hop-family drama Empire, which was left out of the best drama series category, and series star Terrence Howard, who failed to get a best drama actor bid.

Instead, voters gave nods to favourites such as Mad Men star Jon Hamm, Kevin Spacey of House of Cards and newcomer Bob Odenkirk for Better Call Saul. The prequel to the now-concluded Breaking Bad earned a best drama bid in its first season out.

Gina Rodriguez, the standout Latina star of Jane the Virgin, failed to get a comedy acting nod despite winning a Golden Globe award for her performance.

The relatively expansive ethnic diversity that TV offers — compared to movies, which honoured only white actors this year — also is in play when it comes to sexuality. Transparent and Jeffrey Tambor's portrayal of a transsexual's life received best comedy series and acting bids.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANADIAN EMMY CONTENDERS

Maslany gets nod for Orphan Black

Kudos poured in from the Clone Club and celebrities alike on Thursday as Tatiana Maslany got her first Emmy Award nomination for her widely acclaimed performance on Orphan Black.

"Ahhhhhhh!!! #notsnubbed," fellow Emmy nominee Amy Schumer wrote to Maslany on Twitter, where the "Orphan Black" star was trending in the U.S.

The 29-year-old Regina native is up against some heavy hitters in the outstanding lead actress in a drama series category.

Her Emmy competition includes Taraji P. Henson for Empire, Claire Danes for Homeland, Robin Wright for House of Cards, Viola Davis for How to Get Away with Murder and Elisabeth Moss for Mad Men.

Tatiana Maslany. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maslany was one of several Canadians nominated Thursday, with others including Semi Chellas, Jeremy Podeswa and Michael J. Fox.

Chellas, from Calgary, picked up her fifth Emmy nomination for Mad Men, in the best writing in a drama category.

Toronto-born Podeswa is nominated in the best direction in a drama category for his work on Game of Thrones.

Edmonton native Fox is nominated in the best guest actor in a drama category for his role on The Good Wife.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ahhhhhhh!!! #notsnubbed

Amy Schumer wrote to Tatiana Maslany on Twitter, where the Orphan Black star was trending in the U.S.

MOVIE NEWS

Julianne Moore to leave Can You Ever Forgive Me

Actress Julianne Moore has left director Nicole Holofcener's Can You Ever Forgive Me, citing creative differences, according to a report from Variety. Executives have begun the search for a replacement for Moore. The drama, co-starring Chris O'Dowd, was to begin shooting in one week. Moore will soon be appearing in the October drama Freeheld, and The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 2 in November. AFP

Cody Walker lands his first major film role

Cody Walker, brother of the late Paul Walker (The Fast and Furious) has just landed his first significant role in a feature film directed by Mario Van Peebles. The Walker brothers Cody and Caleb stood in for their sibling Paul after his death in a car accident in 2013. Now, it has been announced that Cody has been selected for his first major role in USS Indianapolis: Men of Courage, a feature film based on a true story from the Second World War. AFP

THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

I can commit to the comedy of Amy Schumer who, coincidentally, plays a commitment-phobe in Trainwreck. But I couldn't commit to dinner

Everybody is talking about Amy Schumer. She's written and stars in her first feature film, Trainwreck, which opens Friday. And her Inside Amy Schumer TV sketches, from the Friday Night Lights parody of rape culture to the 12 Angry Men reenactment where a roundtable of men vote on the comic's sex appeal, seem to go viral once a week.

The chatter, however, isn't all cheerful: Like clockwork, the 34-year-old's comedy was placed under a sometimes excruciatingly exacting PC lens. Schumer, who has made a career out of making fun of thick-headed ideas — and the people who hold them — has recently been the subject of endless think pieces on whether or not she is a feminist. Some so entirely missed the mark that they read like a Schumer sketch.

More murky is the subject of race: After a writer for the Guardian suggested that Schumer has "a shockingly large blind spot around race," the comedian first defended herself on social media and then apologized: "I am evolving as an artist," she tweeted, "I am taking responsibility and hope I haven't hurt anyone."

Still, more think pieces followed, including one from the Washington Post titled: "Don't believe her defenders. Amy Schumer's jokes are racist." It was written by a woman who'd read the Guardian piece but had never actually seen any of Schumer's comedy — not one sketch or standup routine.

THE PERSONALITY: Amy Schumer

THE MEAL: A little bit of everything

But Schumer appears to be taking the backlash in good stride: "It's nice to have a break from being called fat for a while," she recently told the New York Times.

But I worry it'll take a toll: As soon as a comedian worries about offending someone, the joke is on them — or maybe us.

I can commit to the comedy of Schumer who, coincidentally, plays a commitment-phobe in Trainwreck. But I couldn't commit to dinner on Sunday night. Fish? Pasta? Pork chops, again? So I prepared what has become a regular standby: Take your favourite foods, some of which have no business being on the same plate, and call it a meal.

That meant grilling haloumi, garlic scapes and slices of baguette on the barbecue, mashing up avocado with Maldon salt and lemon juice, draping prosciutto onto a plate and tossing halved cherry tomatoes in olive oil. When I discovered half a bag of arugula in the fridge just before we ate, I was beside myself because now it was healthy.

But was it dinner? Sure. It was a little bit of everything, for everyone — which is what plenty of people want from Schumer. Only problem is, kowtowing to the masses isn't always funny.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

Twitter ranters no big deal: Apatow

Q&A

The director talks writing and Schumer's humour

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Life

Judd Apatow teamed up with Trainwreck co-writer and star Amy Schumer because of her unique comedic style, but that's been getting her in hot water lately. So where does Apatow stand? He'd say everyone should calm down, if anyone was actually upset.

There's been a lot of talk related to Amy lately about lines of appropriateness, and culture seems to be going in a very outrage-happy direction these days.

I think that people aren't any different now than they've ever been. It's just that the people who are concerned about such things have easier access to a platform to complain. Comedians should be able to make jokes about everything. As long as your heart's in the right place, you should be able to comment about everything that happens in life.

It does feel like we keep getting these 24-hour bursts of outrage, though.

I don't think anyone is outraged. I think, like, one blogger in his basement is outraged and makes a lot of noise so that they can get noticed, but I don't think people care that much about jokes.

Trainwreck director Judd Apatow. HANDOUT

Maybe it's just the illusion a limited Twitter feed can produce.

I just don't there's a huge outrage about anything. It's just the equivalent of if every single letter to CBS when All in the Family aired was in the paper. It's just that there's a way for those people to get noticed now. But I don't think there's any more of them than there has ever been and there's probably less.

You're also working on a Netflix series.

It's called Love, it'll be on next year. I guess you could call it a romantic comedy in slow motion. It's just a very deep exploration of an ordinary couple. It's fun to write things knowing that people are going to consume it quickly. Some people think my movies are long, so it might be better for me to have a five-hour series to work on (laughs).

Does the potential for binge-watching change your approach as a writer?

I'm trying to just enjoy it and learn as I go. We are making it with the thought that people are going to watch it in two or three sittings.

metro TRAVEL

Your essential daily news

A Japanese mobile operator has launched free Wi-Fi on Mt. Fuji

Lessons from Manitoulin Island

A bird's-eye view of Gore Bay, on Manitoulin Island in Northern Ontario. ISTOCK

CANADA

First Nations experience is intimate and enlightening

ON THE MOVE

Loren Christie

Learning about foreign cultures is often part of people's travel experience. However, I am not so sure that when Canadians travel at home we are investing the same energy into discovering the cultures of our First Nations people.

A trip to Manitoulin Island earlier this summer made me realize those who do not work an element of aboriginal tourism into their vacation plans are missing out on something unique and wonderful.

Located in Northern Ontario, Manitoulin Island is a two-hour drive from Sudbury or a seven-hour journey from Toronto, including a ride aboard the MS Chi-Cheemaun ferry. When you arrive, you are aware that something is different here; Small towns are surrounded by rugged natural beauty, permeated by a slower pace of life and a friendly warmth. It seems like every bakery, restaurant or gas station is named after its owner, allowing for an immediate connection with the person serving you.

Eight First Nation communities, all part of the larger Anishinabe nation, inhabit the island and the Sagamok region, which extends onto the mainland to the north. Together they make up the Great Spirit Circle Trail, which is not really a trail, but rather a collection of attractions and activities offered to visitors, including a summer-long rotation of powwows.

The traditional powwows are a social and ceremonial celebration of life held over two days throughout the summer and are free of charge.

Why had I waited this long to experience a fascinating culture?

My Great Spirit experience started with a traditional smudging ceremony to bless our day, led by local Ojibwe guide Steven Antoine. During a canoe trip on Lake Mindemoya, he shared with me the lore of the land, which included the creation of the "grandmother" island in the middle of the lake.

After our time on the water, we went on a medicine walk, where I learned the healing properties of various plants as well as some practical tips; Cedar tea is delicious and white birch bark will remove sticky sap from your skin.

My favourite experience was Steven teaching me how to make my own drum out of deer hide. The drum, I learned, is the one common element among all First Nations people across Canada, representing the heartbeat of Mother Earth.

After a day of doing and learning, I felt slightly humbled, but more embarrassed — why had I waited this long to experience a fascinating culture that is an integral part of our country?

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5 COOL THINGS TO DO IN BERLIN

The history, the architecture, the incomparable rhythm of life. With one of the most varied cultural landscapes in all of Europe, Berlin almost vibrates with energy. **Doug Wallace** FOR METRO

Prolog and Pharao Space, New Museum. DOUG WALLACE

1 Step back in time

While Berlin itself is very in tune with its past, Museum Island is really steeped in history. Much of this five-museum complex has been cleverly restored since the Second World War, and now houses centuries of priceless art and cultural artifacts. The New Museum holds Early History collections and Egyptian treasures, including the famous 3,300-year-old bust of Nefertiti, while the Pergamonmuseum features reconstructions of massive archeological structures. SMB.museum

Arena Berlin and Badeschiff floating pool bar. PHILIP KOSCHEL

2 Stay up late

Hip Berliners step out around midnight. The Kreuzberg area's Watergate nightclub, at the south end of the Oberbaum Bridge, has dance floors both inside and outside, with an amazing view of the River Spree. Be sure to do both sides of the river, crossing north into the Friedrichshain district to Revaler Street, which is teeming with clubs and bars. An outdoor concert at Arena Berlin in front the Badeschiff beach bar makes for a perfect summer night. VisitBerlin.de

Tiergarten beer garden. DOUG WALLACE

3 Hit a beer garden

The stereotyping is real: Beer-drinking on picnic tables is a national pastime. What's great about this tradition is both the simplicity and the inclusivity, with everyone from university kids to retirees hunkering down to plates of hearty fare, mugs in hand. Nowhere is that more evident than at Café am Neuen See in the heart of the Tiergarten Park, a romantic lakeside retreat in the middle of town — and one of the best spots to people-watch. CafeAmNeuenSee.de

The shops at Hackesche Höfe. DOUG WALLACE

4 Get some retail therapy

For shopping, head to the Kurfürstendamm, one of the most elegant boulevards in the city, lined with all the big-name shops. Rounding the corner onto Tauentzien Street, you'll soon hit the Kaufhaus des Westens (KaDeWe), the largest department store in Europe. Find time to also visit both the Friedrichstrasse and the Hackesche Höfe, a series of interconnected courtyards north of the River Spree that date back to the early 1900s. Kurfuerstendamm.de, Friedrichstrasse.de, Hackesche-Hoefe.com.

Strandbad Wannsee. WOLFGANG SCHOLVIEN

5 Head to the beach

Almost one-third of Berlin is either parkland or water, so it would be a shame not to take advantage of it. Rent a bike and head southwest over to the Strandbad Wannsee on the eastern shore of Wannsee Lake, the largest inland beach in Europe at more than 1,000 metres long. Find waterslides, boat rentals, volleyball, soccer, trampolines and private cabanas. This Cultural Heritage site has been packing them in for more than 100 years — including the nude bathing section.

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metro SPORTS
Your essential daily news

The Reds' Aroldis Chapman has thrown 91 of the fastest 100 pitches in 2015, topping out at 103.92 mph

Whitecaps put depth at centre back to the test

MLS

Vancouver club in Portland for Cascadia Cup derby match

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Carl Robinson stressed during the winter the need for depth at the centre back position, and it will be put to the ultimate test this weekend in a Cascadia Cup derby match against the Portland Timbers.

Pa-Modou Kah spent most of Thursday's training session on the sidelines, as he continues to treat an injured calf muscle, but Robinson, the Vancouver Whitecaps' head coach, said the 34-year-old veteran defender will be a game-time decision for Saturday's match in Portland.

Kendall Watson was just called up for international duty with Costa Rica at the CONCACAF Gold Cup, which leaves the young and inexperienced trio of Christian Dean, Tim Parker and Diego Rodriguez for Robinson to choose from against the Timbers.

Rodriguez played one half of the Whitecaps' USL match on Wednesday, and Dean and Parker, MLS first-round draft picks from 2014 and 2015 respectively, trained together as a pairing on Thursday.

INJURY NOTE

'Outside chance' of Morales playing Saturday

Midfielder and designated player Pedro Morales, who has missed four straight games due to an injured calf muscle, didn't train Thursday but worked out on the sidelines.

However, Robinson didn't rule out the possibility that Morales could enter in Saturday's match at some point.

"Pedro's got ... an outside chance. He's increased again today. Will Pedro start the game? Maybe not. Will he be involved? Yeah, there's a good chance he can," said Robinson.

Dean could make his first start of the season alongside Parker against the Timbers, but Robinson wouldn't fully commit to that just yet.

Robinson was questioned a few times about the depth of his club at the centre back position, which was an emphasis for the sophomore coach during the off-season, when the club brought in Parker at the draft, Rodriguez on a season-long loan and signed Kah.

"Sometimes when you're trying to build a squad, people only see the starting eleven. I don't. I see from one to 25 on my roster," said Robinson.

Whitecaps centre backs Christian Dean, left, and Tim Parker play the ball during team training on Thursday. CAM TUCKER/METRO

"I knew five (centre backs) would be needed. I carry five for a reason. And the reasons are going to be shown, maybe, on Saturday."

Selected third overall in 2014, Dean has yet to play a single minute in MLS regular-season competition this year.

Parker was taken further down the order this year, going 13th overall to Vancouver. But he seems to have climbed up the depth chart quicker than Dean, starting in four games and showing to be an offensive threat on set pieces, with two scoring opportunities in Sunday's loss to Sporting Kansas City.

Between Dean, Parker and Rodriguez, their average age is 22.66 years old, and they have a combined 13 MLS games experience.

"Yeah, we lack experience. But I think we make up for it in athletic ability," said Dean.

IN BRIEF

Alouettes tame Tiger-Cats in a defensive battle

Rookie quarterback Rakeem Cato found S.J. Green with a touchdown pass and the Montreal Alouettes downed the Hamilton Tiger-Cats 17-13 in a defensive CFL struggle on Thursday night.

Boris Bede had three field goals and a single for Montreal (2-2), which has not lost at home to the Tiger-Cats in 18 games since Oct. 20, 2002.

Ray Holley scored his first career touchdown and Jason Medlock had a pair of field goals for Hamilton (1-2).

Ticats quarterback Zach Collaros threw three interceptions, including one to defensive lineman Alan-Michael Cash with 1:47 left to play. On a final drive, Hamilton's Terrence Toliver fumbled and Gabriel Knapton recovered.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FC Dallas trades Soumare to Impact for Bekker

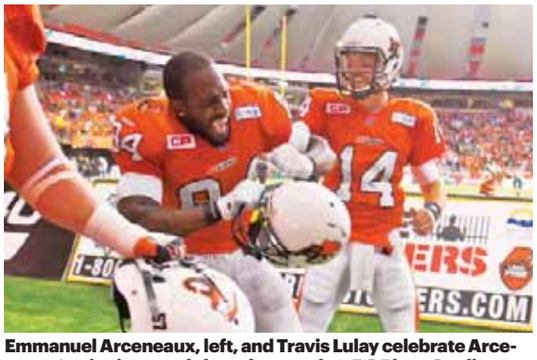
The Montreal Impact dealt unhappy defender Bakary Soumare to FC Dallas for Canadian midfielder Kyle Bekker on Thursday.

The 24-year-old Bekker, from Oakville, Ont., was drafted third overall by Toronto FC in the 2013 SuperDraft and was dealt to Dallas for allocation money before this season.

Soumare, 29, who had lost his starting job in the central defence, requested a trade this week.

Soumare has played 115 MLS games in seven seasons.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Emmanuel Arceneaux, left, and Travis Lulay celebrate Arceneaux's winning touchdown last week at BC Place Stadium.
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Hard work pays off for Lions' QB Lulay

In a video of the post-game festivities inside the B.C. Lions locker-room last Friday, and posted on the club's website, quarterback Travis Lulay appears to get emotional while addressing his teammates.

It's been a long way back for Lulay, who started only once last year before having his 2014 season ended with another injury to his right shoulder.

The emotion Lulay displayed was understandable.

Not only did his team erase an 11-point deficit in the final two minutes to earn an overtime victory against the Saskatchewan Roughriders on home turf, but Lulay had his best game in years, throwing for 404 yards and ending it all on a touchdown toss to Emmanuel Arceneaux.

"I feel like I'm in a fairly good rhythm, even though I missed the bulk of last season," said Lulay after practice this week in Surrey.

"It was exciting. It was emotional. I let some emotions come out that are just not the same when you're not on the field."

WEEK 4

The Lions (1-1) will take on the Roughriders (0-3) in a rematch of Week 3's thriller on Friday in Regina.

Lulay's showing against the Roughriders earned him a CFL Performer of the Week honour, which was handed out Wednesday.

"It's been a long road for him. No doubt," said head coach Jeff Tedford. "It hasn't been easy. There's been frustration along the way. But as far as Travis is concerned, he just hangs in there and keeps working at it.

"All his hard work paid off."

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Mentor nets gold playing pupil

PAN AM 2015

Li tops doubles partner in all-Canadian singles final

Michelle Li lunges to hit a return to fellow Canadian Rachel Honderich during their singles final in Markham on Thursday. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

They are training partners, doubles teammates and good friends. But when Markham's Michelle Li and Toronto's Rachel Honderich faced each other across a badminton net Thursday — a gold medal on the line — they were the fiercest of rivals.

That's a role they don't play particularly well; they just have too much respect for each other. At 23, Li is the veteran and was favoured going into the final at the Pan Am Centre in her hometown of Markham. Honderich, 19, was the underdog, and at their hotel the night before, kidded her mentor that she was going to tamper with Li's racquet.

"I said I was going to cut her strings," Honderich said with a laugh. She was also threatening to wake Li up in the middle of the night to deprive her of sleep.

Rachel Honderich TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"I joked about it," Honderich said, "but I didn't go through with it."

In the end, no clever shot — or practical joke — would keep Li from her second consecutive Pan Am Games gold singles medal.

In front of a packed and enthusiastic crowd of 1,000, Li shook off minor ankle and knee ailments to post a 21-15, 21-9 victory in 26 minutes to take the gold, as Honderich settled for silver.

"To be able to win that in front of my friends and family, and my teachers from elementary school who I haven't seen for 10 years, I think that makes it really special," Li said.

There was no talk before the match about building competitive tension. The mentor and student — who together won a bronze in women's doubles earlier this week — even sat beside each other at breakfast.

> **I did yell to pump myself up, but I try not to fist-pump against Rachel.**
> Michelle Li

"For each of our matches leading up to this, we're always there, warming up for each other, so we stuck to the same plan," Honderich said.

Coming into the final, Li carried a 3-0 margin in head-to-head matches. The last time they played each other was in the 2014 Pan American badminton championships in Markham, when Li swept to gold with 21-13, 21-16 victory.

Li and Honderich will now prepare for singles at the world badminton championships in Jarkarta, Indonesia, in August.

Honderich, Ottawa's Andrew D'Souza and the mixed team of Toronto's Alex Bruce and Vancouver's Toby Ng took silver on Thursday. There were also two bronze medals in women's doubles (semi-final losers are both awarded bronze, so along with Li and Honderich, Bruce and her partner Phyllis Chan also won medals).

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canadian sprint cyclists top podium

The Canadians men's and women's sprint teams took double gold in the first day of track cycling at the Cisco Milton Pan Am/Parapan Am Velodrome.

Hugo Barrette of Cap-aux-Meules, Que., Victoria's Evan Carey and Joseph Veloce of St. Catharines., Ont., edged Venezuela in 44.241 seconds in the men's race.

Kate O'Brien and Monique Sullivan topped Cuba in 33.959 seconds in the women's team sprint. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hugo Barrette, front, Evan Carey and Joseph Veloce were victorious in the men's team sprint. EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

MORE GAMES

Canada golden in women's tennis and wrestling
Gaby Dabrowski and Carol Zhao added another gold medal to Canada's tally, taking first place in women's doubles tennis on Thursday night.

They beat Mexico's Victoria Rodriguez and Marcela Zacarias in three sets.

In women's wrestling, Genevieve Morrison won gold in the freestyle 48 kilogram division, beating Peru's Thalia Mallqui.

DQ strips West Vancouver's Overholt of Games record
A Canadian was disqualified at the women's 400-metre individual medley final for a "non-simultaneous" wall touch.

Emily Overholt of West Vancouver, B.C., appeared to win gold in a Pan Am record time of four minutes 35.33 seconds but officials ruled that her hands did not touch the wall at the same time during the breaststroke turn.

U.S. team wins silver medal following protest
Canada was bumped down to a bronze medal in the men's 800-metre freestyle relay after a successful protest by the United States.

American Michael Weiss raced Wednesday with tape wrapped around fingers he'd injured during the 200-metre freestyle earlier in the night. FINA rules state no tape can be worn unless approved the Sport Medicine Committee.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spieth, Johnson lock horns again

BRITISH OPEN

Jordan two off leader Dustin in repeat of U.S Open battle

USA's Dustin Johnson and Jordan Spieth, paired together for the first round, are again in a duel in the early stages of the year's third major. Johnson missed a putt to hand Spieth the US Open title in June. STREETER LECKA/GETTY IMAGES

Leader Dustin Johnson tees off on the 2nd hole during the first round at St. Andrews. The athletic American has been out-hitting Spieth off the tee by 36 yards ANDREW REDINGTON/GETTY IMAGES

Jordan Spieth played like he had a Grand Slam to win. Dustin Johnson played like he had a score to settle.

The two main characters from Chambers Bay brought their games across eight time zones and an ocean Thursday and set the tone at St. Andrews for what could be another riveting battle at the British Open.

Spieth quickly seized on his opportunity for a third straight major with six birdies in his first 11 holes, fought through a chilly wind on the inward nine and closed with a birdie for a 5-under 67 that put him two shots out of the lead.

Johnson, whose three-putt from 12 feet on the final hole cost him a shot at the U.S. Open, looked as daunting as ever. He simply overpowered the Old Course with such force that he hit wedge into 10 of the par 4s and had an eagle putt on another. With a pair of big par saves on the tough closing holes, he played bogey-free for a 65 and for at least a day made good on a warning he made earlier in the week.

Asked about Spieth's chances to sweep the four majors, Johnson said, "Well, I'm playing the next two so we'll have to see."

This was hardly a two-man show. The six players who were one shot behind at 66 included former British Open champion Paul Lawrie and two-time U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen. Jason Day, coming off his scary bout with vertigo symptoms at the U.S. Open, was back on his feet and back in the hunt. Most impressive from that group were Zach Johnson and Danny Willett, who posted their scores as the temperature dropped and wind stiffened late in the afternoon.

Spieth was joined at 67 by Louis Oosthuizen, the last Open champion at St. Andrews.

"If D.J. keeps driving it the way he is, then I'm going to have to play my best golf to have a chance," Spieth said. The real test might come from the weather.

Spieth and Johnson got a break by playing in the morning when St. Andrews was ripe for scoring — 10 of the top 12 scores came from that side of the draw. That didn't help Tiger Woods, who hit into the Swilcan Burn on the opening hole, made only one birdie and shot 76.

"Guys have been shooting good numbers," said Woods, a two-time Open champion at St. Andrews. "Unfortunately I did not do that." Instead, he was headed for a missed cut for the third time in his last four majors.

The afternoon wave suffered in chill and wind so strong that Phil Mickelson hit driver and 3-wood and didn't reach the 465-yard 13th hole. He said he had to hit 5-iron for his third shot on the par-5 14th. Johnson was pin-high with a 3-wood in the morning. Mickelson made only one bogey on the back nine and shot 70. He called the conditions "fun," though his smile might not last if the morning group doesn't face the same conditions.

The first 26 groups had an average score of 71.46. The last 26 groups averaged 72.62.

Rickie Fowler, coming off a victory in the Scottish Open, said the final seven holes was "hanging on for dear life." He made two bogeys, one eagle and 15 pars for a 72.

The forecast was for rain early Friday and wind calming as it clears, followed by stronger gusts in the afternoon. Saturday could have gusts approaching 40 mph. Spieth already has shown at the Masters and U.S. Open that power isn't everything. And while he laid back on several holes — Johnson's tee shots were on average 36 yards longer — Spieth can score.

He birdied four of the first six holes with putts inside 12 feet and took a share of the lead with a 10-foot putt on the par-3 11th. His main mistake came in bunkers. Not many can appreciate the route Spieth is taking. Only five other players since 1934 have won the first two majors of the year. Only Ben Hogan has won the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open in the same year. No one has won all four.

The key for Spieth in the first round was to stay close, and that's what he did — not in driving distance, but by score, which ultimately is all that matters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If D.J. (Dustin Johnson) keeps driving it the way he is, then I'm going to have to play my best golf to have a chance.

American Jordan Spieth on his British Open and Grand Slam chances

HARDEST HOLE

The Road Hole, the 17th, was by far the toughest hole on the Old Course, playing closer to a par 5 than a par 4. No one made a birdie on the hole, but Dustin Johnson was one of 53 players who managed to make par on his way to the first-round lead.

IN BRIEF

Clippers sign free agent forward Josh Smith

The Clippers signed free-agent forward Josh Smith, who helped eliminate them in the playoffs when he was with the Houston Rockets.

He averaged 12.4 points, 6.4 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 1.4 blocks while playing 55 regular-season games with Houston, which picked him up when he was waived by Detroit after 28 games last season.

Smith reportedly signed a one-year deal for the veteran minimum worth $1.5 million.

He helped the Rockets rally from a 3-1 series deficit against the Clippers in the Western Conference semifinals. Smith scored 19 points in Game 6, when the Clippers led by 19 points at home only to lose. He had 15 points in Game 7.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Froome emerges with lead intact after tough Stage 12

Chris Froome came out of the toughest Pyrenees stage, won Thursday by Joaquim Rodriguez of Spain, with his Tour de France lead comfortably intact, leaving the Alps as the last major obstacle between the British rider and a second victory in Paris.

Gritting his teeth, tongue lolling, Rodriguez rode alone through driving rain on the day's final steep climb to take his second stage win of this Tour. The Katusha team leader also won a shorter uphill finish on Stage 3.

At the finish of Stage 12 to the Plateau de Beille ski station, which marked the end of three days of climbing in the Pyrenees, Rodriguez thrust both arms in the air.

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Ingredients
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- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup raisins or dried cranberries

Garnish
3 Tbsp semisweet chocolate chips
Icing sugar

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray a 10" oven safe skillet with vegetable oil.

2. In a bowl, add oil, both sugars, egg and vanilla until well mixed. Add remaining ingredients, except for garnishes and mix until flour is incorporated. Spread evenly into skillet and bake for 20-25 minutes. The longer you bake, the crisper the texture.

3. In a microwaveable bowl, melt remaining chocolate on medium heat in microwave for 30 seconds or just until chocolate begins to melt. Drizzle over top of cookie and dust with icing sugar.

Nutrition per serving
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- Protein 2 g
- Carbohydrates 30 g
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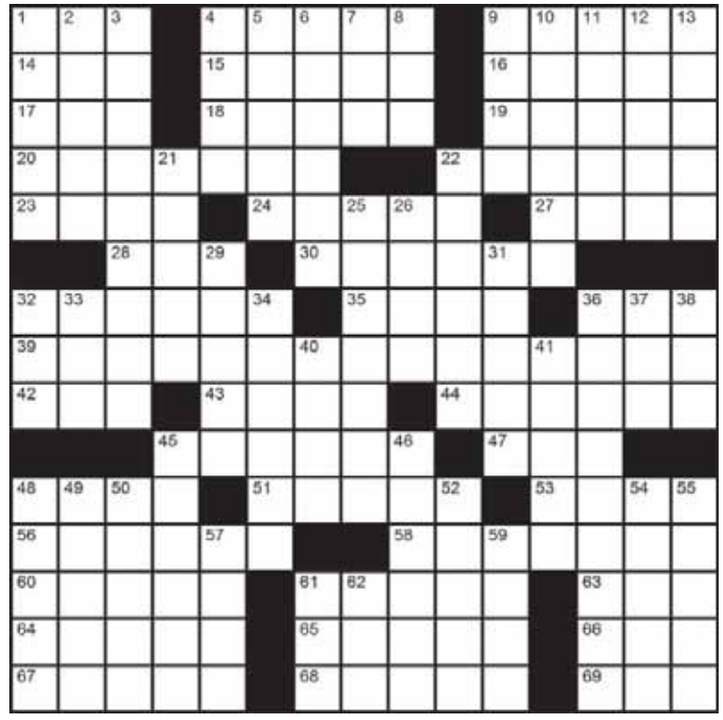
- Saturated fat 2.5 g
- Cholesterol 20 mg
- Sodium 65 mg
- Fibre 1 g

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Orlando's li'l state
4. Social customs
9. __ of 2015
14. Towel holder
15. Sporty rock concert venue
16. Major artery
17. In the past
18. Straight-__
19. Carbonated beverages
20. As per #39-Across... Matthew Cuthbert's sister
22. Cakes creators
23. Barenaked Ladies song
24. Wet with a gardening hose
27. Like ballpoints
28. Super __ (Old video game console by Nintendo, commonly)
30. __ __ an idea (Persuade about a course of action, for example)
32. "...pain, __ __." (Bodybuilder's mantra)
35. "__ __ I say, not..."
36. Neg. opposite
39. Montreal-born "Anne of Green Gables" actress who played the character at #20-Across: 2 wds.
42. Demure
43. Merriment
44. Gown and cap wearer
45. Do additional lawn work
47. Barley bristle
48. Sole spot
51. Root used in perfumes
53. Bounced-back sound
56. Scottish pattern
58. Beverage in Anne of Green Gables, Raspberry __
60. Prognosticate
61. Competently
63. A.A. Milne play, Mr. __ Passes By
64. Gawk
65. Particular purple
66. "Much __ About Nothing" (1993)
67. Reddish-brown hair rinse
68. Pinnacles
69. __ Vegas

DOWN
1. Painting border
2. Mount in the Yukon, Canada's highest
3. In a highly cherished manner
4. West Edmonton __
5. Verbal tests
6. Briefly summarizes
7. Opposite WSW
8. Unhappy
9. __ Loma, Toronto attraction
10. Check up on/take a peek: 2 wds.
11. "Insensitive" singer Jann
12. Barren
13. Cheeky
21. Pretty perfect
22. Community regulations regarding fences, pools, trees, etc.
25. Alberta city: 2 wds.
26. "Wake Me Up" singer Mr. Blacc
29. Warfare attack
31. Ice Cube, aka __ Jackson
32. _ _ _-1701 (U.S.S. Enterprise marking)
33. Ghost's sound!
34. Mr. Mandela
36. School bigwig
37. Bear, in Barcelona
38. Gibraltar, e.g.
40. __-do-well
41. Not married
45. Bring back
46. Declaration
48. Cache
49. Fashion: __ couture
50. Hockey game instrument
52. Crack
54. __ Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands, now)
55. Edward James __, "Battlestar Galactica" star
57. Domain
59. Deli loaves
61. Grammy competitor, commonly
62. BC's li'l ocean

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
What you want to do and what you have to do will be two different things today, but there is no point getting annoyed because others have the upper hand. It won't be long before the roles are reversed.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Your reputation seems to be heading south in some people's eyes. What have you done to turn them against you? Probably no more than to tell the truth about something they feel strongly about.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will find it exceedingly easy to guess what people are planning over the next 24 hours. Add to that the promptings of your inner voice and you can't go wrong.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
It may feel as if time is running out, that if you don't make a move soon you will miss out on an opportunity. But the planets urge you to be aware there are no shortcuts to success.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Things that made no sense to you at all a short while ago will make perfect sense today and over the weekend and by the time the Sun moves in your favor on the 23rd you will wonder why you found it so hard to get your head in gear.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
By all means help a friend if they are in trouble today but don't cover up for them. The most important thing now is that they come clean about their mistakes.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There is still time to do something dramatic, something that impresses those in positions of power, so get to it. You may not want to be the centre of attention but it goes with the territory.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The planets warn that certain people will try to bully you into abandoning ideas and opinions that mean a lot to you — and you must fight them every inch of the way.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Today's events will manoeuvre you in a direction you are not sure you want to go. According to the planets it is not only the right thing for you but, deep down, you know it is too, so don't fight it too hard.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Your needs and desires have not been satisfied to any great extent in recent weeks but be of good cheer. In a matter of days you will get the chance to make up for lost time. Today though you should let others have their own way.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
One day soon you will look back and laugh at the things you allowed yourself to get worked up about. That day will come quicker if you refuse to give in to the emotional side of your nature.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
The Sun remains in the most creative and dynamic area of your chart only until the 23rd, so there is still time to do something amazing but you have got to be quick.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		9		4		7		
	6		2		5		1	
2								6
	2		1		7		6	
8								9
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	3		9		6		5	
		6		5		2		

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